

REMARKS

The issues outstanding in the Office Action mailed February 8, 2005, are the objections under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c), and the rejections under 35 U.S.C §112 and 103. The Examiner is thanked for indicating the allowability of the majority of the claims herein. It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the following discussion, all claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Examiner is thanked for noting the typographical error in the dependency of claim 25. This typographical error has been corrected, and is submitted that the dependency of the claim is now proper. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §112

Claims 27 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph. It is submitted that cancellation of these claims renders these rejections moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §103

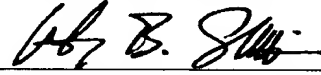
Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103 over Trouilhet. Although Applicants maintain the discussion of patentability over this reference in the previous response, in order to expedite prosecution and for business reasons unrelated to the patentability of the claim, the claim has been canceled. Thus, this rejection is also moot.

Claims 16 - 19, 21 - 24, 26, 29 - 34, 36 and 38 - 40 have been indicated as being allowable. Inasmuch as the objection to claim 25 has been removed by correction of the dependency, and inasmuch as claim 25 is dependent upon allowed claim 16, it is submitted that this claim is also allowable. Thus, passage of all claims to issue is respectfully requested.

However, should the Examiner have any questions or comments, she is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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FILED: May 4, 2005

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